

REMARKS

The examiner rejected claim 1 as being anticipated by Metzger Jr. et al. US 4,846,036.

We have amended Claim 1 to clarify that the two components relatively movable together and apart to clamp onto or release from part of one side of the apparatus operate independently of the mechanical connection.

There is support for this amendment at paragraph 2 of page 12.

Metzger Jr. et al. US 4,846,036 does not disclose or suggest a cutting apparatus having the clamping feature claimed in Claim 1.

Lines 50 to 62 of column 5 of US '036 describe how when the locking handle 65 is rotated in a counter clockwise direction the connecting bracket and rod 77, 79 respectively are placed under tension. This tension acts to pull the rear clamp 49 against the rear surface 7 of the table.

The tension **also** urges pivot pin 75, the handle 65, pivot pin 63 and the upper end of the spring bias lever 51 towards the rear surface of the table saw 3, thus pivoting the spring biased lever 51 around pivot pin 57 and causing the lower end of the spring biased lever 51 to be forced against the inner wall surface 65 of the front guide rail 9.

In contrast, the arrangement of the invention includes two locking positions. When the operating lever is moved to a partially locking position, by pivoting it downwardly to the position shown in figure 6, the cam surfaces 56 effect camming of the lever 47 by engaging at point X the surfaces at opposite sides of the opening 41. This camming, by way of the pivot bar 58, causes a slight sliding movement of the clamping member 43 to move its ribbed wall surface 48 to take up the clearance and tightly clamp onto one side surface of the lip 59, with the opposite side surface of the lip 59 being held tightly against the wall 34, thereby clamping this one end of the guide fence to the base of the cutting apparatus.

Movement of the lever to its Figure 7 position, by further pivoting, draws the bar 42 to a position where its hook 44 is tightly locked onto the lip 45.

An advantage of the invention is that when the rear face of the saw is obscured by, e.g. a work piece requiring cutting, and a user is unable to engage the hook (i.e. rear clamp 49), the guide fence is at least securable at one end thereof. In the arrangement of US '036 the need for tension in the connecting bracket and rod in order to effect clamping means that in the event of such an obstruction a user is unable to secure the guide fence.

Since amended claim 1 now claims features not found in Metzger Jr. et al '036 claim 1 is allowable over the anticipation rejection. With claim 1 allowable all remaining claims are allowable since they are dependent on now allowable claim 1.